

What is claimed is:

1. An airbag system for protecting an occupant, comprising:

an airbag having an occupant side surface facing the occupant and an opposite side surface opposite to the occupant side surface when the airbag is inflated, said airbag having an interior partitioned into a plurality of chambers including at least an upper chamber and a lower chamber,

a gas generator disposed in the airbag for generating gas to inflate the airbag, and

a gas distributor disposed in the airbag and partly surrounding the gas generator, said gas distributor having a discharge port for discharging the gas from the gas generator into at least the upper chamber and the lower chamber and being formed of a connecting line extending substantially linearly and connecting the occupant side surface and the opposite side surface of the airbag.

2. An airbag system according to claim 1, wherein said airbag includes a housing chamber between the connecting line and a rear side rim of the airbag for retaining the gas generator, said discharge port including a lower discharge port communicating with the lower chamber at a lower side of the housing chamber and an upper discharge port communicating with the upper chamber at an upper side of the housing chamber, said lower discharge port having a size larger than that of the upper discharge port.

3. An airbag system according to claim 2, wherein said gas generator has a rod shape having a gas port facing downwardly at one end thereof and disposed vertically in the housing chamber.

4. An airbag system according to claim 3, wherein said housing chamber is disposed between the upper chamber and the rear side rim of the airbag.
- 5 5. An airbag system according to claim 2, wherein said connecting line has a lower part situated close to the rear side rim of the airbag.
- 10 6. An airbag system according to claim 3, wherein said airbag is partitioned with a partitioning line connecting the occupant side surface and the opposite side surface, said partitioning line extending to the connecting line.
- 15 7. An airbag system according to claim 6, wherein said partitioning line extends from a front side rim of the airbag to an end portion near the rear side rim, and the connecting line extends from the end portion of the partitioning line upwardly to a portion near an upper side rim of the airbag.
- 20 8. An airbag system according to claim 7, further comprising a second partitioning line disposed above the partitioning line to form a middle chamber therebetween.